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EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

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1-18-07

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SPAM participant / MCDD member

I am the parent of Abi who loves to ski, dance, swim, ride horses...

I am the parent of Abi who has a developmental disability.

People with disabilities reflect the normal diversity in the human community.

I am the parent of Abi who deserves a respectful, authentic process to help guide and ensure policy that reflects her rightful citizenship of this community we call Montana.

SPAM: Strategic Planning Across Montana....

Is a process created 10 years ago to guide recommendations for the direction of services for people with developmental disabilities. SPAM is a living breathing group whose common goal is to co-create community to authentically support and include people with developmental disabilities.

The original SPAM took place in 1997. SPAM 2 began in June 2006 with many of its earlier members in attendance. There were 3 meetings over 7 months with a taskforce of about 55 people. At least half those participants were either people with developmental disabilities or parents and family members.

This past September, over 12 town hall meetings were held across the state that included 350 people interested in improving services for people with developmental disabilities. People across Montana interested in fact, in community building. People with developmental disabilities, family members, staff and others showed up to name their top priorities as follows:

- Reduction or elimination of the waiting list
- Staffing issues, workforce stability, recruitment and retention
- Transitions services from school to life
- Supported living options, and an increase in all housing options
- Crisis support services
- Increased transportation services

Start of SFY 2007
In 2006, 4119 people with developmental disabilities were in community- based programs. 474 people with developmental disabilities were on the community- based program waiting list.

As a parent who participates with outreach services and as a part of MCDD I would like to voice my support for the College of Direct Support as a tool to help address the priorities offered through the SPAM process.